

# Fun Facts: Exploring the 1950 Census

## A Look Back at the 1950 Census

During the 1950 Census, approximately 143,000 enumerators (people who collect data during a survey interview) counted households in the United States, territories of Alaska and Hawaii, American Samoa, the Canal Zone, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and some of the smaller island territories. They traveled by helicopter, boat, and even dog sled to collect responses, and for the first time more than half were women. To commemorate the release of data from the 1950 Census, the U.S. Census Bureau presents the following 1950 Census facts and figures from its vast collection of statistics.



*The 2020 Census showed 331 million people live in the United States, a 119 percent increase from 151 million in 1950.*



*The Census Bureau began use of the first nonmilitary computer after completing the 1950 enumeration. UNIVAC I (for Universal Automatic Computer), the first of a series, weighed 16,000 pounds and used 5,000 vacuum tubes!*

## What's the Age?

**About 30**—Median age of people counted in the 1950 Census.

**About 39**—Median age in 2019.



## 1950 Employment

**56,239,449**—Total number of employed persons 14 years and over:

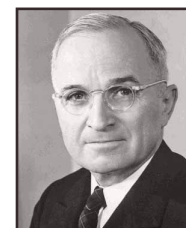
- Male—**40,519,462**
- Female—**15,719,987**

## 1950 Home Life

- **\$3,300/year**—Average family income in 1950.
- **Approximately 45,983,000**—Number of homes in 1950.
- **Approximately \$7,400**—Median home value.
- **About 9 out of 10** (94%) homes had electricity.
- **About 6 out of 10** (60%) of U.S. families owned an automobile.

## 1950 Census: By the Numbers

- U.S. President—**Harry S. Truman**
- U.S. resident population—**151,325,798**
- Official enumeration date—**April 1, 1950**
- Number of states—**48**
- Number of questions on the short form—**20**
- Number of questions on the long form—**42**

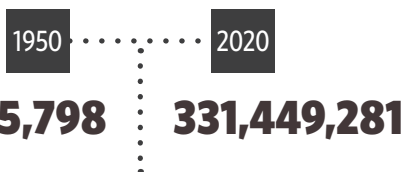


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates; Current Population Survey Historical Time Series Tables; 1955 Statistical Abstract; Census Bureau History; 1950 Census of Population; 2020 Census; Current Population Reports, Income of Families and Persons in the United States: 1950.

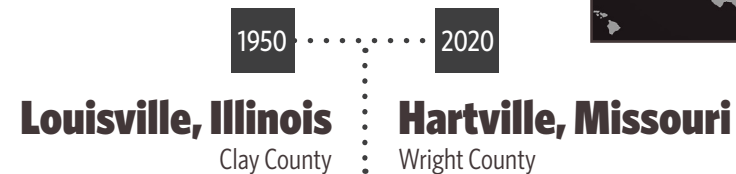
# Fun Facts: Exploring the 1950 Census (Continued)



## Population

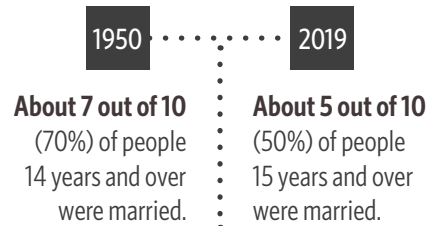


## Center of Population



## Who Said I Do?

Percentage of People Married  
(includes divorced and widowed)



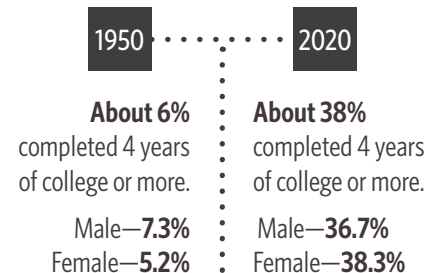
The 1950 censuses involved visits to 45 million homes to get information on more than 150 million people and their dwellings as well as more than 5 million farms.



## Women in the Workplace

## College Graduates

People 25 Years and Over



## High School Graduates

People 25 Years and Over

